

# Hollywood Reporter

By Mike Connolly

**Mike's Thursday Mailbag**  
Dear Mike: Some silly Hollywood columnist, and it could be you, wrote that Liz and Dickie baptized the yacht they're using in Mexico "The Taffy." Now isn't that just too cute for words? Who believes this junk, especially when it's only a rented yacht?—Claudia Fulton, Meriden, Conn.

Dear Claudia: I do, for one. Burton, in typical Welsh style, says he's stealing the huge salary Seven Arts is paying him to star in the currently-shooting "Night of the Iguana" in Mexico. So they've baptized the yacht, for the duration, "Taffy" — for that old jingle, "Taffy was a Welchman, Taffy was a thief."

Dear Mr. Connolly: You wrote in your column in The Philadelphia Inquirer that Debbie Reynolds swore she would never go back to work at M-G-M Studios. We would like to know the reason for her statement. We are great fans of Debbie's. —Debra Stone and Linda Lawley, Media, Pa.

Dear Fans: Debbie said it because she was worn to a frazzle after filming "How the West Was Won." But she's back there now shooting "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and isn't that just like a woman?

Sir: Why do you always write such nasty things about Liz Taylor? I remember reading a story about her—by you!—a long time ago in which you said you were a friend of hers. Doesn't anybody in Hollywood have any loyalty?—Bill Fish, Worthington, Ohio.

Dear Bill: Liz makes the news, I report it, and it's too bad she makes such nasty news. My loyalty is to my readers, not to Liz.

Dear Mike: My girl friend read where you were on The Hollywood Reporter 10 years ago writing under the name of Alta Durant. —Sis Townsell, Alamogordo, N. M.

Dear Sis: It's a base canard. That was my predecessor's nom de plume, stolen from the street corner where she lived: Alta Way and Durant Drive in Beverly Hills.

Dear Mike: My husband says Vernon Duke didn't write BOTH "April in Paris" and "Autumn in New York." —Mrs. Mike Leming, Salem, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Mike: He's wrong.

Dear Mr. C.: Whatever happened to the very handsome Josh Peine who was so good in his own TV series last year? —Tuck Barker, Lubbock, Texas.

Dear Tuck: He quit, after a hassle with his producer, Don McGuire, and is now a landscaping engineer in Beverly Hills—and making very good money at it. But Josh hasn't given up acting entirely. He's up for the starring spot in a new series at Revue.

Dear Mike: Would like to know why Jack Benny doesn't use Rochester or Dennis Day on his shows more often. —R. L. B., Peoria, Ill.

Dear R. L. B.: Jack is trying to rev up his ratings, like all other TV stars, by using different talent every week.

Dear Mike: Ed Sullivan had Frank Sinatra Jr. on one of his shows and I thought it was disgusting. That boy has no talent, no voice, and is just being pushed because of his

father. There are hundreds of young people who have a lot more on the ball but are not given the opportunity to show it. That's my opinion. —J. W. Nagle, Torrance, Calif.

Dear J. W.: Ed Sullivan, in addition to being a TV emcee, is still a newspaper reporter. He knows, as such, that names make news, in print as well as on TV. Ed's viewers wanted to see what young Sinatra looked like so Ed obliged. Ed hasn't signed the youngster for another show but that doesn't mean he won't. Give the kid a break—his learning!

Dear Mike: My husband and I recently saw "Young Man with a Horn" (on TV) and wondered who played the trumpet for Kirk Douglas. —Mrs. John H. W. Whitehead, Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Mrs. Whitehead: Harry James.

Dear M. Connolly: I stood in line over an hour waiting to buy tickets to "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World." Mad is right. The girl in the boxoffice blasted me when I asked what the second feature is! —Mrs. Rose Sedgwick, San Bernardino, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Sedgwick: No wonder. "Mad World" runs three-and-a-half hours. But they do have a cartoon and a newsreel so enjoy, enjoy.

(Mike Connolly welcomes all readers' questions, but due to the large volume of mail received, it may be some time before the answer to your question appears in his column.)



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## Deborah Lifton Elected Frosh Prexy at THS

Deborah Lifton was elected president of the Torrance High School freshman class in runoff elections held on the Tartar campus last week. Miss Lifton will join other members of the Torrance High Student Council in the leadership class, according to James Armstrong, student activities advisor. The student council is composed of class presidents and student body officers.



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*Mary Morgan*

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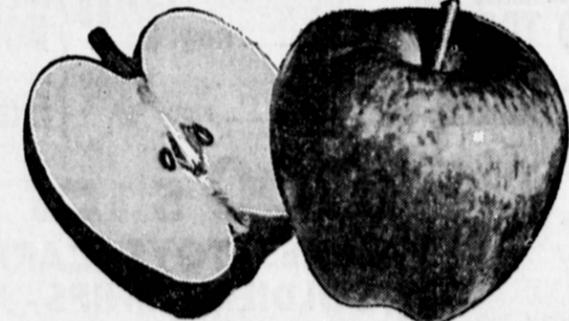


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